

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 USIA-06 SS-15

SP-02 NSC-05 L-02 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PA-01 PRS-01 /080 W

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R 241140Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1645

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 0885

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, EG

SUBJECT: UNESCO

REF: STATE 9408-CAIRO 9222

1. AS NOTED IN CAIRO REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE ISRAELI ISSUE AT
UNESCO CARRIES SUCH SENSITIVITY HERE THAT ONLY PRESIDENT SADAT
HIMSELF COULD INITIATE A REVISION OF GOE POSITION. AS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, SADAT IS ALSO UNABLE TO ACT ALONE ON THIS MATTER,

WILL WISH IN PARTICULAR TO KEEP IN STEP WITH KING FAISAL TO
WHOM HE IS FINANCIALLY BEHOLDEN, AND PERSONALLY RESENTS WHAT HE
SEES AS ISRAELI PRACTICE OF CREATING "FAITS ACCOMPLIS". FURTHER,
SADAT IS DEVOUTLY RELIGIOUS AND PERSONALLY TROUBLED BY WHAT
HE BELIEVES IS DESECRATION OF HOLY PLACES BY ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT. AT A TIME WHEN HIS DOMESTIC ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN

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POLICIES ARE INCREASINGLY CALLED INTO QUESTION BY HIS OWN

PREDOMINANTLY RELIGIOUSLY CONSERVATIVE CONSTITUENCY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SADAT WOULD CONSIDER SOFTENING GOE POSITION ON THIS MATTER.

2. THUS, WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY IF ISRAELIS SEE FIT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON SCOPE AND VENUES OF CURRENT EXCAVATIONS WOULD SADAT FEEL PERSONALLY INCLINED OR JUDGE IT POLITICALLY SAFE TO ORDER A RECONSIDERATION OF WHAT WE UNDERSTAND WAS EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS' ACTIVE ROLE DURING UNESCO DELIBERATIONS ON THIS ISSUE.

3. JUDGING FROM TEL AVIV'S 449, ISRAELIS ARE IN NO MOOD TO BE CONCILIATORY. WE BELIEVE ONLY CONTINGENCY IN WHICH SADAT WOULD FEEL POWERFUL ENOUGH TO REVIEW HIS POLICY WOULD BE IF THERE SHOULD BE A SECOND STAGE DISENGAGEMENT FROM WHICH SADAT WOULD EMERGE AS THE ARCHITECT OF A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC COUP. RIDING ON THE WAVE OF SUCH A POPULAR SUCCESS, IT IS JUST POSSIBLE SADAT WOULD BE PREPARED TO PLAY A CAUTIOUSLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN UNESCO PROBLEM, THOUGH WE DOUBT HE WOULD EVER TAKE THE LEAD, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE CANNOT CONCEIVE OF A SITUATION IN WHICH KING FAISAL WOULD ACQUIESCE IN AN ARAB POLICY ON JERUSALEM HOLY PLACES WHICH WAS NOT HARD-LINE.

4. ON THE SAME SUBJECT, RABBI ISRAEL MOWSHOWITZ OF NEW YORK CITY (WHO HAS BEEN VISITING EGYPT FOR PAST FEW DAYS AT CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S BEHEST) BROACHED CURRENT UNSATISFACTORY UNESCO SITUATION DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY AND WONDERED WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT IT. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED SADAT'S ATTITUDE AS REPORTED IN FOREGOING PARAGRAPHS. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT UNESCO DG M'BOW HAD OFFERED TO VISIT ISRAEL TO TALK WITH GOI OFFICIALS AND VISIT THE DISPUTED EXCAVATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO TRY TO BE HELPFUL IN SOFTENING LAST NOVEMBER'S RESOLUTION. TO BEST AMBASSADOR'S KNOWLEDGE, GOI HAS NOT THUS FAR AGREED. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW SUCH A VISIT MIGHT HELP, ESPECIALLY IF M'BOW COULD GIVE FIRST HAND REPORT THAT ESCAVATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN A MANNER THAT PROVIDES FULL PROTECTION TO ISLAMIC MONUMENTS. RABBI MOWSHOWITZ PICKED UP IDEA. HE EXPECTS TO ATTEND THE WORLD JEWISH CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM NEXT WEEK AND INDICATED HE WILL URGE THAT GOI INVITE M'BOW. HE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE

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FOR PRIMIN RABIN TO FIND SOME FORMULA TO DO SO WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO WHAT HE CALLED ISRAEL'S "RIGHT" TO REGULATE EXCAVATIONS AS GOI SEES FIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, RESOLUTIONS, EXCAVATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO00885
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750027-0597
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750124/aaaaauvu.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 9408-CAIRO, 75 9222
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO
TAGS: PORG, EG, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006